



## **USTAR E-Connections**

December 17, 2008

### **A Holiday Greeting from USTAR**

During the Holiday Season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who make our great State's continuing progress in new technology and economic growth possible. We say thanks to you and other E-Connections readers.

In that spirit, we have posted some light and fun suggestions for the holidays, based on USTAR's six Innovation Focus areas. We hope you enjoy it!

[www.innovationutah.com/holiday.html](http://www.innovationutah.com/holiday.html)

### **Innovation Contest Demonstrates Vibrant Entrepreneurial Environment in So. Utah**

The "Concept to Company" competition is an ongoing innovation contest held in the various regions across the state of Utah. The main objective of the contest is to encourage and support Utah's entrepreneurial innovators with the intent of helping them turn their concepts into a company. Organized and sponsored by Grow Utah Ventures, USTAR, and Zions Bank, the contest has recently focused on technology development in Southern Utah.

"As of the Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> submission deadline, the Southern Utah contest has generated more than 60 ideas for new tech-based products and services. That topped our expectations and shows we have an active innovation environment," said USTAR Southern Utah Region Tech Outreach Director Dr. William Pratt.

The winning entry will receive a \$20,000 award, comprised of cash and the equivalent value in consulting or prototype services to help bring the idea to fruition. Additionally, two runners-up will also receive \$10,000 awards each, comprised of cash and services. The awards will be given out on stage on January 14, 2008 at the Washington County Economic Summit in St. George.

For more information, visit [www.LaunchUtah.com/concepttocompany.php](http://www.LaunchUtah.com/concepttocompany.php)

### **Missed "Concept to Company"? Try "Invented in Utah"!**

There's another significant innovation contest available statewide, and it's called "Invented in Utah." The application deadline is January 31, 2009 and contest details are available at [www.inventedinutah.com](http://www.inventedinutah.com). Utilizing a competitive venue whereby each inventor may gain experience promoting his/her product, the most promising ideas gain recognition and a share of \$40,000 in awards.

### **USTAR in the News**

Aribex, Inc. of Orem, UT and USTAR were featured in a brief spot on KSL Newsradio Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Aribex manufactures handheld x-ray devices for the dental market and has received some support services from USTAR's Central Utah Tech Outreach team. Listen to the broadcast at <http://real.ksl.com/video/slc/2/267/26707.mp3>

The Utah Science Technology and Research initiative (USTAR) is a long-term, state-funded investment to strengthen Utah's "knowledge economy" and generate high-paying jobs. Funded in March 2006 by the State Legislature, USTAR is based on three program areas. The first area involves funding for strategic investments at the University of Utah and Utah State University to recruit world-class researchers. The second area is to build state-of-the-art interdisciplinary facilities at these institutions for the innovation teams. The third program area involves teams that work with companies and entrepreneurs across the State to promote science, innovation, and commercialization activities. For more information, go to [www.innovationutah.com](http://www.innovationutah.com).